Enforcement cases pending in the DGFT

1761. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of enforcement cases are pending with the DGFT;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending as on the 31st October, 2004;

(c) the value of the recovery that is to be collected alongwith the penal interest arising out of these cases; and

(d) the steps being taken for speedy recovery of the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The number of defaulters in fulfilment of export obligation and consequent enforcement cases *vis-a-vis* number of licences obtained are comparatively low;

(b) In the financial year 2002-2003, the number of licences issued are 43,042 for Rs. 53,391 crores and in the year 2003-04, 44,442 licences worth Rs. 78,437 crores have been issued (other than DEPB licences). The number of cases pending in 32 regional offices of DGFT organization as on October 2004 are 4245 approximately;

(c) The amount to be recovered is Rs. 1,950 crores approximately, which includes customs duty (saved) as well as the penalty imposed in the adjudication proceedings;

(d) After adjudication of cases under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, companies are directed to pay the penalty imposed. In many cases, Bank Guarantees furnished by those companies are encashed towards amunt due. When the amount is not paid by the licence holders, cases are referred to the concerned District Collectors of the State Government to recover the penalty amount as arrears of land revenue. All the Regional Offices of DGFT organisation have been advised to give priority for recovering the penalty imposed in enforcement cases.